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RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

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HEADER

P 200538Z SEP 06

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

BT

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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/15/2016

***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****

BODY

TAGS: PREL, ENRG, MASS, NATO, OSCE, PHUM, UN, NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/U.S.: PDAS VOLKER DISCUSSES BILATERAL
RELATIONS, NATO

REF: A. A) THE HAGUE 2024

B. B) THE HAGUE 2023

C. C) THE HAGUE 1991

D. D) THE HAGUE 1978

CLASSIFIED BY: AMB ROLAND ARNALL; REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) SUMMARY: DURING HIS SEPTEMBER 12 VISIT TO THE HAGUE,
EUR PDAS VOLKER DISCUSSED

HE MET

WITH GONL OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND JOURNALISTS, AND
DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE INFLUENTIAL NETHERLANDS ATLANTIC
ASSOCIATION. VOLKER DEFENDED U.S. DETAINEE POLICY, SAYING
THAT PRESIDENT BUSH RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO ADDRESS NEGATIVE
PERCEPTIONS AND IS WORKING WITH CONGRESS TO REACH A
COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL SOLUTION.

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19. (U) IN TALKS WITH DE GOOIJER, KOENDERS, AND VAN BAALEN, AS WELL AS IN REMARKS TO THE NETHERLANDS ATLANTIC ASSOCIATION AND INTERVIEWS WITH JOURNALISTS, VOLKER VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS ON REMOVING ALL DETAINEES FROM CIA DETENTION FACILITIES, GUARANTEEING ICRC ACCESS, AND GUANRANTEERING APPROPRIATE TREATMENT UNDER COMMON ARTICLE 3 OF

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THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, THE DETAINEE TREATMENT ACT AND THE NEWLY ISSUED ARMY FIELD MANUAL. QUESTIONS DEALT ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH DETAINEE ISSUES AND DUTCH CONCERN THAT U.S. DETAINEE POLICY HAD STRAYED FROM A COMMITMENT TO RULE OF LAW AND DUE PROCESS. VOLKER EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, AND INDEED THAT PRESIDENT BUSH HAD TAKEN STEPS TO COMPREHENSIVELY ADDRESS THE LEGAL ISSUES, TREATMENT ISSUES, AND UNDERLYING VALUES ISSUES THAT HAD BEEN OF CONCERN TO MANY EUROPEANS. VOLKER EXPLAINED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD NOW GONE TO CONGRESS AND WAS ASKING IT TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE WAR ON TERROR, CONSISTENT WITH THE RECENT SUPREME COURT RULING.

20. (U) DESPITE VOLKER'S REPEATED FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT, DUTCH MEDIA CHOSE TO FOCUS COVERAGE OF HIS VISIT ON THE FACT THAT, WHILE THE DETAINEES

***** START OF SECTION 4 *****

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HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM CIA DETENTION, THE CIA PROGRAM ITSELF REMAINED IN PLACE. THESE STORIES, IN TURN, FACTORED INTO DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY HEARINGS ON THE SUBJECT ON SEPTEMBER 13, AND PROMPTED SEVERAL PROMINENT POLITICIANS (INCLUDING FM BOT, KOENDERS, AND VAN BAALEN) TO EXPRESS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE U.S. POSITION.

21. (U) PDAS VOLKER CLEARED ON THIS CABLE.

ARNALL

ADMIN

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